Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), 2005 is being implemented in 313 districts of the country.

(b) In accordance with Section 1(3) of the NREG Act, 2005 it shall be • applicable to the whole of the territory to which it extends within a period of five years from the date of its enactment *i.e.* up to 7th September, 201.0.

(c) No, Sir. Areas in a State to be covered under NREGA are identified by the Central Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Ministry has demanded a sum of about Rs. 1,00,000 crore in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for implementing NREGA.

Drinking water to 74,000 habitations under Bharat Nirman

4566. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had promised to provide drinking water to the remaining 74,000 habitations, that are uncovered by 2008-09 under Bharat Nirman;

(b) how much money was utilized in the financial year 2005-06 and the first three quarters of 2006-07, for Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and how many households have been provided with drinking water facilities; and

(c) what is Government's Programme to cover the rest of the habitations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Out of 74,000 uncovered habitations which were reported uncovered as per Comprehensive Action Plan 99 (CAP 99) based on coverage in previous years, under Bharat Nirman programme for rural drinking water supply, it is proposed to cover uncovered habitations as well as to address issues of quality and slippages.

During 2005-06 a total amount of Rs. 5946.25 crores have been utilized for covering 97215 habitations which included uncovered as also partially

covered of CAP 99, slipped back and quality affected habitations. In the first three quarters of 2006-07, a total amount of Rs. 4207.05 crores have been utilized for covering 55452 habitations which similarly included uncovered, partially covered of CAP 99, slipped back and quality affected habitations. The remaining uncovered habitations are proposed to be covered by 2008-09 under Bharat Nirman.

Wider consultation on Land Acquisition Act, 1894

4567. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 240, given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th March, 2007 and state:

(a) whether Government have made any efforts to invite concerned people to give their views on issues related to Land Acquisition Act of 1894;

(b) if not, what are the reasons for restricting discussions only to State Governments;

(c) whether Government would consider inviting views from the Forum on Social and Human Rights, to elaborate changes sought and difficulties being faced by the poor farmers and backward classes; and

(d) the steps proposed to carefully weigh proposals for the new Relief Policy, and give them weightage, based on their practical utility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) Wide-ranging consultations have been held by this Ministry in revising the National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation for Project Affected Families-2003. The draft National Rehabilitation Policy-2006 (NRP-2006) was circulated to the States, UTs and concerned departments of the Government of India for comments. Also, the draft NRP-2006 was placed in the public domain on the websites of the Department of Land Resources as well as the Ministry of Rural Development. Public notices were issued in leading national and regional newspapers, inviting comments from the general public on the draft. Copies of the draft were also made available to the public, free of charge, at the facilitation counter of the Ministry at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. Comments from a number of non-governmental organizations as well as from the public at large were received, which were examined